

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/715,687

Applicant(s)

FIRESTONE ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Melur Ramakrishnaiah

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1-6-2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

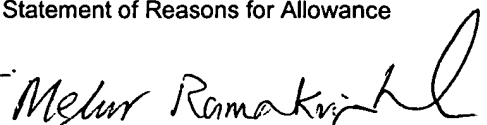
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 11-18-03/12-10-03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


MELUR RAMAKRISHNAIAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the present invention relates in general to telecommunications signal processing and more particularly to a system and method for providing video conferencing synchronization.

The prior art of record in combination or alone fails to teach or suggest these elements of the independent claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16 and 18 in combination with other elements. For example independent claim 1 has claim limitations such as the audio mixer operable to generate a mixed audio stream from the one or more incoming audio streams, the audio mixer operable to determine differences in the time base of each one of the one or more incoming audio streams and the time base for the mixed stream, the audio mixer operable to generate mapping parameters associated with the determined differences, the audio mixer operable to transform the timestamp of each of the one or more incoming audio streams to a corresponding output timestamp associated with the mixed audio stream according to the mapping parameters, video mixer operable to generate a mixed video stream from the one or more incoming video streams, the video mixer operable to receive the mapping parameters from the audio mixer, the video mixer operable to transform the timestamp of each of the one or more incoming video streams to a corresponding output timestamp associated with the mixed video stream according to the mapping parameters. Independent claim 6 has claim limitations such as receiving one or more incoming audio streams, each one or more incoming audio streams being associated with endpoint local timestamps, converting the endpoint local timestamps to endpoint network timestamps for each one of the one or more incoming

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audio streams, generating a mixed audio stream from one or more incoming audio streams, the mixed audio stream having mixer network timestamps, determining mapping parameters associated with each incoming audio stream between the endpoint network timestamps and mixer network time stamps. Independent claim 8 has claim limitations such as generating a mixed audio stream from the one or more incoming audio streams, the mixed audio stream having mixer network timestamps, determining mapping parameters between the endpoint network timestamps and mixer network timestamps, comparing two sets of endpoint network timestamps to mixer network timestamps, identifying an offset and a scale factor as the mapping parameters in response to timestamp comparison. Independent claim 11 has claim limitation similar to independent claim 6. Independent claim 13 has claim limitations similar to claim 8. Independent claim 16 has claim limitations similar to independent claim 6. Independent claim 18 has claim limitations similar to claim 8. For the above reasons, independent claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, 16, 18 and dependent claims 2-5, 7, 9-10, 12, 14-15, 17, 19-20 are allowable.

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melur Ramakrishnaiah whose telephone number is (571)272-8098. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 Hr schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curt Kuntz can be reached on (571) 272-7499. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Melur Ramakrishnaiah
Primary Examiner
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